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ACCOUNT NO. 23-0975

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of : **Confirmation No. 2396**
Werner HAFLIGER : Attorney Docket No. 2004_1603A
Serial No. 10/511,299 : Group Art Unit 3634
Filed July 18, 2005 : Examiner Alvin C. Chin Shue
DEVICE FOR EVACUATING PEOPLE : **Mail Stop: Amendment**
FROM A BUILDING

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Pursuant to the provisions of 37 CFR 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, Applicant requests consideration of the reference listed on attached form PTO-1449 and any additional information identified below in paragraph 3. A legible copy of each reference listed on the Form PTO-1449 is enclosed, except a copy is not provided for:

- ☐ each U.S. Patent and U.S. Patent application publication;
- ☐ each reference previously cited in prior parent application Serial No. _____.

1a. ☐ This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted:

within three months of the filing date (or of entry into the National Stage) of the above-entitled application, **or**

before the mailing of a first Office Action on the merits or the mailing of a first Office Action after the filing of an RCE,

and thus no certification and/or fee is required.

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- 1b. ☒ This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted

after the events of above paragraph 1a and prior to the mailing date of a final Office Action or a Notice of Allowance or an action which otherwise closes prosecution in the application, and thus:

- (1) ☐ the certification of paragraph 2 below is provided, **or**
(2) ☒ the fee of \$180.00 specified in 37 CFR 1.17(p) is enclosed.

- 1c. ☐ This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted:

after the mailing date of a final Office Action or Notice of Allowance or action which otherwise closes prosecution in the application, and prior to payment of the issue fee, and thus:

**the certification of paragraph 2 below is provided, and
the fee of \$180.00 specified in 37 CFR 1.17(p) is enclosed.**

2. It is hereby certified

- a. ☐ that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of the Statement, or
b. ☐ that no item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application and, to the knowledge of the person signing the certification after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in §1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of the Statement.

3. ☐ Consideration of the following list of additional information (including any copending or abandoned U.S. application, prior uses and/or sales, etc.) is requested.

4. For each non-English language reference listed on the attached form PTO-1449, reference is made to:

4. For each non-English language reference listed on the attached form PTO-1449, reference is made to:
- a. ☐ a full or partial English language translation submitted herewith,
 - b. ☐ a foreign patent office search report (in the English language) submitted herewith,
 - c. ☐ the concise explanation contained in the specification of the present application at page,
 - d. ☐ the concise explanation set forth in the attached English language abstract,
 - e. ☒ the concise explanation set forth below or on a separate sheet attached to the reference:

Japanese Patent Application No. 61-159973 discloses a foldable tube (12) provided with inflatable airbags (14). Each of the airbags is arranged with a front and a back portion and forms a slot, through which the evacuating persons will fall. To provide flexibility for the front and back portions, air holes through the inner walls and springs (15) are additionally arranged, thus complicating the construction of the device and may lead to difficulties, which can be dangerous since the evacuation of the persons is not ensured. Moreover such air holes may not function because a crossing person may close the holes.

In comparison with the device of the present invention, the air cushions (30) disposed in the tube (7) are formed differently. In particular, the cushions are annular shaped. Such cushions are therefore easier to fold because springs do not have to be used. Furthermore, the device of JP 61-159973 does not include a plateau (4) that can be extended from inside the housing.

WO 98/31424 discloses an emergency evacuation system with three primary concepts. It employs a different inflatable descent tube (3), and the tube (3) is inflated with a generator (GBG) connected for instance at the top of the tube (see Fig. 1). For that purpose, the tube (3) is ring-shaped for reception of the gas. The interior surface of the tube includes energy absorption structures (5, 7, 11) strategically positioned to retard the rate of fall of an object through the tube. Friction assistors (5; see page 11 and Figs. 2-4), such as bouncing bulges (7) and diverting slopes (11), line and extend inward from the inner surface of the tube (3) for the purpose of guiding and slowing bodies as they descend through the tube. With this principle the descending persons are not braked more or less constantly on a frictional basis during the descent, but rather are braked by the stopping devices such as the diverting slope (11).

Such an emergency evacuation system therefore clearly functions different in comparison to the device disclosed in the present application. It is unlikely that the falling persons will be

able to jump from one diverting slope to the next slope. For instance, when a child is falling through the tube, the child could turn in the tube and fall head first.

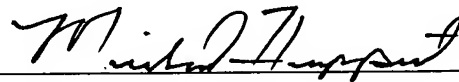
5. ☐ A foreign patent office search report citing one or more of the references is enclosed.
6. ☐ Statement Under 37 CFR 1.704(d)

Each item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign Patent Office in a counterpart application, and this communication was not received by any individual designated in §1.56(c) more than thirty days prior to the filing of the Information Disclosure Statement.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any deficiency or to credit any overpayment associated with this communication to Deposit Account No. 23-0975, with the EXCEPTION of deficiencies in fees for multiple dependent claims in new applications.

Respectfully submitted,

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